DEMAND V—REGISTRATION.

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 8,950 under Demand V—Registration, for the continuance of the temporary Sub-Registrar's Office at Kunnattur, Pathanapuram, Chengannur and Thodupuzha and of the temporary staff of 72 clerks on Rs. 20 each per mensem during 1118. The registrations during the first three months of 1118 in these offices amply justify their continuance and they have slightly, though not adequately, relieved the congestion of work in the neighbouring offices. A reserve staff consisting of 12 clerks on Rs. 20 each for a period of 6 months and 60 temporary clerks on Rs. 20 each for a period of 3 months were sanctioned during the current year to clear the arrears that had accumulated in Sub-Registry Offices and to give some relief to the over-worked subordinates who had been working under high pressure. The work has generally been on the increase in all the offices, and consequently, even with the above staff it has not been possible to keep abreast of the current work. It is proposed to continue the 72 temporary clerks for the whole of 1118. I request that this grant may be sanctioned by the House.

The motion was put and carried; the grant was made.

DEMAND VII—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE.

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 3,340 under Demand VII—Public Works Department.

This amount is required for the construction of a kitchen at the Oolampara Barracks for the Police Armed Reserve. Considering the large number of people to be accommodated there, the present provision for a kitchen is insufficient. Only temporary sheds have been erected to serve as kitchen. In the circumstances, a sum of Rs. 3,340 is urgently required for the construction of a kitchen and latrines at Oolampara barracks.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Sir, I second the motion. In doing so, I wish to say a few words. I am rather surprised that the demand of the Chief Engineer for a kitchen is quite a trifling compared with certain other needs of the Department which calls for urgent attention. For example, there is a place which I myself visited, where lands have been flooded repeatedly during the recent rains. This requires the immediate attention of the Department. Therefore, I ask Government to give the Chief Engineer funds to take adequate steps to relieve the distress caused to the people by these floods. My point is, Sir, that the Chief Engineer should have asked for more money to deal with more important problems in the State than for the provision of a kitchen.

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President: The honourable member may perhaps be reassured that, as I have pointed out elsewhere, the whole system of the P. W. expenditure is being reorganised. Hereafter, grants will not be made from year to year but they will be made in a lump, say, 80 or 90 lakhs, on a three year basis. This amount will be spent according to the advice of the P. W. Advisory Committee. This procedure will avoid fragmentary items of expenditure. I should like to state also that the Chief Engineer will also have full instructions and authority from Government, in any urgent case, to move quickly in the matter.

The motion was put and carried; the grant was made.

DEMAND IX—COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT.

Mr. E. G. Salter: I move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 4,00,000 under Demand IX—Commercial Transport for additional expenditure for petrol. In asking for this may I be permitted to explain the reasons for this heavy supplementary demand. The reasons are three-fold. Firstly, when the budget for 1118 was being prepared it was anticipated that before the end of that year all the buses run by the Transport Department would be converted into charcoal gas driven buses. But unfortunately we have not come up to the expectation, mainly for the fact that we were not able to overhaul the engines rapidly enough to render them suitable for working on charcoal gas. Non-availability of spare parts was the reason for this. Therefore, instead of turning out 3 engines per week we were able only to turn out one in 10 days.

Secondly, owing to the shortage of sugar in South India, the Government of Madras found it expedient to prohibit the export of jaggery. This prohibition resulted in the closing down of the Travancore Sugar Factory with the consequent stoppage in the supply of alcohol. The use of petrol in its place has resulted in a loss of Rs. 9,000 to the Department.

Thirdly, even in the case of the vehicles which are being operated on charcoal gas we are experiencing very great difficulties in obtaining charcoal, mainly due to the great demand for firewood particularly from the South Indian Railway. I request this honourable House to pass this grant.

President: I desire to reassure the honourable members on one matter arising out of Mr. Salter's remarks. As Mr. Salter has stated, the Government of Madras prevented the export of jaggery from Tinnevelly and surrounding places. But I am glad to say that on account of the visit of Mr. Mehta, the Government of India Sugar Controller, we have been able to reach a better understanding with the Government with regard to this question, as

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